



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 524

January Session, 2003

Substitute House Bill No. 6456

House of Representatives, April 24, 2003

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. FELTMAN of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The chairpersons and ranking
- 2 members of the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
- 3 having cognizance of matters relating to public health, the judiciary
- 4 and insurance shall appoint a task force to conduct a study of the
- 5 current system of medical malpractice and its impact on access to
- 6 quality medical care. The chairpersons and ranking members of said
- 7 committees shall appoint such members of said joint committees as
- 8 wish to serve on the task force.
- 9 (b) The task force shall make recommendations for legislation and
- 10 regulations based upon a review of research into: (1) Factors that may
- 11 cause physicians to limit access to care, including, but not limited to,
- 12 availability and cost of medical malpractice insurance; (2) the costs and
- 13 benefits of the current tort system in providing redress and

14 encouraging improvements in health care; (3) comprehensive reforms
15 to the medical malpractice system that will (A) improve availability of
16 medical liability insurance coverage, (B) reduce or stabilize medical
17 liability premium rates, and (C) ensure continued patient access to
18 health care; (4) the impact on health care spending arising out of
19 concerns about medical malpractice liability; and (5) the costs and
20 benefits of mandatory error reporting, the use of clinical protocols and
21 other means of managing health care that have been proven to
22 improve results for patients.

23 (c) The task force shall review research that includes, but need not
24 be limited to, research performed by governmental agencies and by
25 national public and private organizations.

26 (d) On or before January 1, 2004, the task force shall report, in
27 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
28 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
29 matters relating to public health, insurance and the judiciary,
30 regarding the recommendations arising out of the study performed
31 pursuant to this section.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Public Health, Judiciary, and Insurance Committees to establish a task force to study the current system of medical malpractice and its impact on access to quality medical care. To the extent that legislators are appointed to serve on the task force, Legislative Management will incur minimal costs for legislator mileage reimbursement. Additionally, to the extent state agency personnel are appointed to the task force, the agency may incur costs which are anticipated to be minimal.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB-6456

***AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE AND ACCESS
TO HEALTH CARE.***

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 2